

State of the County Address Highlights

*Milwaukee County Executive
Scott Walker*

*St. Marcus School,
February 6, 2006*

Walker calls for the lifting of caps on school choice

“As many as 4,000 young people will be prevented from attending schools like the one we are in today. That is wrong, and for the good of all the people in Milwaukee County, we need to lift the cap.”

Walker draws attention to the County’s financial situation

“Today, I issue a warning that we must tackle our benefits problem or we will be left with nothing but pensions, benefits, and state mandates in our future budgets. Milwaukee County cannot survive without major changes.”

Walker Outlines his Plan of Action

“I know that we can take on our huge financial challenges and prevail, but we have to be serious about our situation.”

Continue To Improve Government Operations

- Move the County’s traditional pension system to a defined contribution system
- Repeal the 2.0% pension enhancement for non-represented employees
- Take legal action against those involved in providing incomplete information about the pension deal
- Fight in arbitration with the only remaining union that has not settled a contract to control health care costs
- Add a new position at Parks for fiscal management and recommend dual reporting to the Parks Director and the Budget Director
- Sell the land on the southwest quadrant of the County Grounds to the medical institutions
- Initiate a county-wide review of staffing levels

Insure Public Safety

- Take all necessary legal action to block the placement of a facility for Sexually Violent Persons on county property
- Lobby the State to include people under the age of 60 with disabilities in the expansion of Family Care

Quality Of Life/Jobs and Prosperity

- Expand successful partnerships in the parks. “If it takes a coffee shop in every park to keep them open, then I’m all for it.”
- Sell the maintenance building at 68th and State Streets and consolidate staff
- Complete the sale of the Park East land
- Develop the 60 acres on the northeast quadrant of the County Grounds, including the parks building
- Hold Operation Freedom 2006 at the Milwaukee County Zoo for returning military personnel and their families
- Expand the annual Executive’s Ride to include the promotion of attractions and businesses in the entire Milwaukee 7 region
- Submit a fifth straight budget with no tax levy increase from the previous year